

Message Text

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TAGS: -

SUBJ: -

U.S. GIVES DONATION FOR ZAMBIAN FLOOD DISASTER RELIEF BY DERRICK
BWALYA.

LUSAKA, MARCH 8 -- A ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT MINISTER TODAY DESCRIBED
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AS "A TRUE FRIEND" AND SAID IT'S
CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS REDUCTION OF THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE'S SUFFERING
WOULD GO A LONG WAY IN CEMENTING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND
WASHINGTON.

RAJAH KUNDA, ZAMBIA'S MINISTER FOR LUSAKA PROVINCE, SAID THIS HERE
TODAY (MARCH 8) WHEN HE RECEIVED A 13,000 DOLLAR CHECK FROM
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA, STEPHEN LOW. THE DONATION WAS
WASHINGTON'S RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S CALL FOR ASSISTANCE
TO THE RESIDENTS OF THREE LUSAKA TOWNSHIPS DEVASTATED BY FLOODS
AND DECLARED A NATIONAL DISASTER AREA. AMBASSADOR LOW PRESENTED
THE CHECK AT A BRIEF CEREMONY HELD AT KANYAMA TOWNSHIP AFTER THE
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AMBASSADOR TOURED THE DEVASTATED COMPOUND TO CHECK ON THE
EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THE
GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF KANYAMA, MR. KUNDA SAID: "YOUR CONTRIBUT
ION
HAS DEMONSTRATED THE GREATEST CONCERN FOR THE SUFFERING OF THE PEOPLE

AND I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THIS CONTRIBUTION WILL GO A LONG WAY IN HELPING US TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERING OF OUR PEOPLE".

HE ADDED THAT IN THE PAST ZAMBIA HAD CONSIDERED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES TO BE "FRIENDLY". "BUT YOUR GESTURE TODAY GOES A LONG WAY IN CEMENTING THIS FRIENDSHIP AS TRUE FRIENDS CAN ONLY BE IDENTIFIED DURING TIMES OF SUFFERING. TODAY E HAVE IDENTIFIED YOU AS OUR TRUE FRIEND, AND PLEASE CONVEY MY GOVERNMENT'S SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF AMERICA."

MR. KUNDA WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY THE MINISTERS OF WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES, PUBLIC WORKS, THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING, THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR FOR LUSAKA URBAN, AND CITY COUNCIL AND LOCAL PARTY OFFICIALS.

AMBASSADOR LOW TOLD THE ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY THAT HE WAS MAKING THE DONATION TO ASSURE THE PEOPLE OF THE COMPOUND THAT THEY WERE, IN HIS WORDS, "NOT ALONE IN THIS MISFORTUNE."

HE ADDED THAT HE HAD PARTICULARLY CHOSEN MARCH 8 FOR THE PRESENTATION BECAUSE IT WAS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, CELEBRATED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ZAMBIA.

"WE KNOW THAT WHEN THIS KIND OF THING HAPPENS IT IS THE WOMEN AND THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE TO STAY HERE DAY AFTER DAY, HOUR AFTER HOUR

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WHO BEAR THE BRUNT OF A CATASTROPHE LIKE THIS. THEREFORE, WE ARE PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT THE CONTRIBUTION WE ARE MAKING FALLS ON A DAY THAT DOES HONOR TO THE WOMEN WHO BEAR SO MUCH OF THE BURDEN IN THIS KIND OF THING. SO WE COME TODAY TO BRING YOU A MESSAGE OF HOPE" THE AMERICAN ENVOY SAID.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE IN KANYAMA IN THE HOPE THAT THEIR NATIONAL DISASTER FUND CAN HELP IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND RELIEF OF THIS SITUATION."

THE CEREMONY, WITNESSED BY SEVERAL HUNDRED LOCAL RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY THE FLOODS, ENDED WITH CHANTS FROM THE CROWD OF "ONE ZAMBIA - ONE AMERICA", A VARIATION OF THE NATIONAL MOTTO "ONE ZAMBIA - ONE NATION." ITEM USIS LUSAKA.

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